

King County Executive Ron Sims' Parks Levy Recommendation

Two companion levies to be placed on August 2007 Primary ballot:

5¢ King County Parks Support: *Renew, Restore, Preserve*

5¢ Expanding Parks & Recreation Opportunities

County Parks Support Levy: 5-cent, six-year levy, with inflation adjustor

Replace current reduced level of maintenance funding	4.44¢
Restore maintenance levels to pre-2002/budget crisis	0.56¢
TOTAL	5.00¢

Expanding Parks & Recreation Opportunities: 5-cent, six-year levy, with inflation adjustor

King County Open Space and Regional Trails acquisitions	3¢
City Trails and Open Space	1¢
Environmental education and conservation programming and Related capital and operating support at Woodland Park Zoo	1¢
TOTAL	5¢

Companion Levies, Unlinked:

- Passage of either levy is not pre-conditioned on passage of the other.

County Parks Support Levy:

- Based on status quo budget; this levy renewal ensures parks stay open with increment to restore maintenance levels to pre-2002 budget crisis levels.

Expanding Parks & Recreation Opportunities:

- The 3-cent allocation to King County will be applied to:
 - Protect additional lands, shorelines, and streams within our watersheds as open space and ensuring appropriate public access to these areas.
 - Expand the County's regional trail system in accordance with the King County Regional Trail Plan by acquiring trail corridors and developing key urban trail connections. Trails to be developed include:
 - East Lake Sammamish trail
 - Sammamish River Trail connection to East Lake Sammamish Trail
 - Soos Creek Trail
 - Funds may not supplant existing funding.

- The 1-cent allocation to cities will be allocated through application to the Conservation Futures Tax Citizen Oversight Committee, whose mission will be expanded for this purpose.
 - Cities or citizen groups may apply for funds.
 - Funds must be matched (grantees must provide not less than equivalent value to the amount of the grant)
 - City trail projects must support connections to the regional trail system, defined to include both county regional trails and city trails that are regional in nature, and may specifically include local trails in underserved areas linking to city or county trails that connect to regional trails.
 - City open space projects must be consistent with the criteria in the current King County Conservation Futures Tax program.
 - Funds may not supplant existing funding.
- The 1-cent allocation to the Woodland Park Zoo will be allocated to expanding the Zoo's environmental education and conservation programs, and making capital improvements to Zoo facilities, including:
 - Zoo environmental education and conservation programs to be expanded include programs such as: School-to-Zoo, Wild Wise, Forest Explorers and Zoo Corp; interpretive programs such as Willawong Station (interactive bird aviary). Funds could be used for technology support, curriculum development, capital, staffing, and other tools supporting these educational programs.
 - Capital improvements include green space enhancements on the zoo grounds.
 - Funds may not supplant existing funding.

Oversight:

- Expenditure of funds by the County under these levies should be annually reviewed by a citizen's committee for consistency with the authorizing ordinance.
- Current levy is subject to similar oversight. Click on <http://www.metrokc.gov/parks/businessplan/> and scroll right-hand menu to see report examples.

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